

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 6, 2022

Passage: Isaiah 19:1-20:6

Memory Passage: Isaiah 19:23-24

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 19:1-10.** What does the imagery of Yahweh “riding on a swift cloud” convey (cf. Ps. 104:3-4; Nah. 1:3)?

(b) Explain what the last two lines of 19:1 convey and how the parallelism connects them.

(c) Summarize what happens to Egypt in 19:2-4 and explain who is the cause of these calamities.

(d) Explain the calamities Yahweh will send in 19:5-10 and what parts of the Egyptians’ life they will affect.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 19:11-15.** What idea is presented in several ways by several words in 19:11-15?

(b) Egypt was known for its wisdom (cf. 1 Kings 4:30), so what does Yahweh’s work in 19:11-15 reveal about the fruitfulness of men’s wisdom both without God and in comparison with God?

(c) How will Egypt end up when Yahweh is finished acting (vs. 14-15)?

(d) For what reasons does our text say Yahweh acts against Egypt in 19:1-15?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 19:1-25.** What phrase dominates your reading of 19:16-25, and what does this phrase tell you about the timing of the events described?

(b) There are six occurrences of “in that day” in 19:16-25, five of them marking off subsections (the one in the middle of v. 21 continues the subsection begun in v. 19). Spend time analyzing and meditating on these verses as you answer the following questions: (1) Which nations are involved? (2) How does the Lord of Hosts engage Egypt with “striking and healing” (v. 22)? (3) What elements of God’s coming to Egypt in judgment (19:1-15) are reversed in his coming in salvation (19:16-25)? (4) What is Egypt’s, Assyria’s, and Israel’s final relationship to God (19:25), and when will this happen?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 20:1-6.** Chapter 20 does not begin with “The oracle concerning . . .” so we will consider it as part of the oracle beginning in 19:1. The encounter described happened in 711 BC and

is described in the Assyrian Annals of Sargon II, discovered in Khorsabad, Iraq in the 1840s. What purpose does a description of this military campaign serve in the oracle concerning Egypt (Hint: consider when the events of each section [19:1-15; 19:16-25; 20:1-6] happened)?

(b) What purpose did Isaiah's acted prophecy of "walking about naked and barefoot" serve (the answer is in the context!)?

(c) Explain why the entire oracle concerning Egypt was given to Judah and what purpose it served (cf. 20:6).

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 19:1-20:6.** How does Egypt's spiritual, economic, and intellectual state compare with the United States' current situation? What hope should we derive for the United States from God's promises concerning Egypt in 19:16-25?

(b) Isaiah presents Judah in constant peril of trusting in kings and nations rather than God. What does Judah learn in this oracle that will strengthen them in this temptation? What should believers today learn about this temptation from 19:1-20:6?

(c) In what ways are you challenged concerning your dependence upon human/earthly wisdom rather than God's wisdom?

(d) People from Judah's former (Egypt) and current (Assyria) Gentile enemies are shown being blessed by God and brought into His people. In what ways might you increase your passion for and involvement in reaching people from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation with the gospel of Jesus Christ so they might become "(God's) people . . . the work of (His) hands . . . (His) inheritance" (Isaiah 19:25)?

DATE: November 6, 2022

PASSAGE: Isaiah 19:1-20:6

Oracle Concerning Egypt